

HOUSE BILL 371

By Shepard

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section  
68-3-502, relative to certificates of death.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-3-502, is amended by deleting subsection (c)(1) and substituting instead the following:

(1) The medical certification shall be completed, signed and returned to the funeral director by the physician in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition that resulted in death within forty-eight (48) hours after death, except when inquiry is required by the medical examiner. In the absence of the physician, the certificate may be completed and signed by another physician designated by the physician or by the chief medical officer of the institution in which the death occurred. If there is no physician in charge of the patient's care, or if the treating physician cannot be located after reasonable inquiry, the chief medical examiner shall complete and sign the certificate. If the physician in charge of the patient's care is located but, in the best medical judgment of the physician, the patient's death did not result from the illness or condition for which the physician was treating, and no other physician treating the patient for the illness or condition resulting in death can be reasonably located, the chief medical examiner shall complete and sign the certificate.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.